

IN THE DRAWINGS

In Figures 3A, 3B, and 3C, add the legend "(PRIOR ART)" as indicated in the attached Replacement Sheet.

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3 have been canceled. Amended claim 2, and new claims 4-8 are in this application.

The drawings were objected to "because Figure 3 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art--." The drawings have been amended herein so as to include this change.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,985,116 issued to Mettler et al. Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 07-319146.

As previously indicated, claims 1 and 3 have been canceled. New independent claim 4 recites in part the following:

"A method for decorating a surface of a die usable for forming a three-dimensional object by a molding process, said method comprising the steps of:

. . . .

molding a photomask into a same shape as a shape of said die which corresponds to a shape of the three-dimensional object;

. . . .

in which the die is usable to form the three-dimensional object with the pattern formed thereon by the molding process." (Emphasis added.)

It is respectfully submitted that neither Mettler nor JP 07-319146 as applied by the Examiner disclose the above features of claim 4. That is, the portions of Mettler and JP

07-319146 relied on by the Examiner do not appear to disclose a method for "decorating a surface of a die usable for forming a three-dimensional object by a molding process" as specifically set forth in claim 4. Such die may be usable with a molding process to form a three-dimensional object such as a diaphragm for a speaker. On the other hand, Mettler and JP 07-319146 appear to describe techniques for forming wiring or circuit patterns onto a part or substrate.

For reasons similar to or somewhat similar to those previously described with regard to claim 4, it is also respectfully submitted that independent claims 6 and 8 are also distinguishable from either Mettler or JP 07-319146 as applied by the Examiner.

Claims 2, 5, and 7 are dependent from one of independent claims 4 and 6. Accordingly, it is also respectfully submitted that dependent claims 2, 5, and 7 are distinguishable from either Mettler or JP 07-319146 as applied by the Examiner for at least the reasons previously described.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been overcome, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which the Examiner might have.

Application No.: 10/521,141

Docket No.: SONYJP 3.3-1079

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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